

Graduate Studies in Immunology

Contact

Department of Immunology
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Program & Admissions Information

Applied program:

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Fundamental program:

graduate.immunology@utoronto.ca

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What is Immunology?

Immunology is an integrative branch of the medical sciences that draws upon the more traditional disciplines of Molecular Biology, Microbiology, Pathology, and Biochemistry.

In essence, Immunology is the study of the physiological responses that result when foreign (i.e. non-self) materials are introduced into a vertebrate organism such as man. Traditionally, the discipline has focused on the body's response to infectious micro-organisms, with the purpose of developing effective vaccines. However, the scope of modern Immunology now encompasses all aspects of self vs. non-self recognition phenomena including organ transplantation, tumour immunology and autoimmune diseases.

Recent major advances in our understanding of the cellular and molecular basis of the immune response promise to provide us with a new generation of prophylactic, therapeutic and diagnostic reagents of relevance to human and animal health.

The Department

The Department presently has approximately 60 Graduate Faculty members; student enrolment, is usually between 20-25 students per year.

Faculty are located throughout the city of Toronto. Labs can be found in the Medical Sciences Building on the main campus of the University, as well as nearby institutes and hospitals such as the Hospital for Sick Children, the University Health Network, and Sunnybrook Research Institute.

Through The Immunology Graduate Students' Association (IGSA), students in the Department take part in many activities and events outside of the lab. These activities are highlighted by our highly anticipated annual summer retreat and picnic, and winter holiday party. IGSA also organizes regular social events scheduled throughout Toronto.



Programs

MSc in Applied Immunology

The MSc in the field of Applied Immunology provides advanced training in designing, implementing and evaluating Immunological techniques that measure immune responses. To qualify for the degree, each candidate must complete specified course work and a Major Research Project (MRP). The MRP, which will be performed in a host laboratory, shall comprise research that designs and validates a novel technical approach. The MRP will then be summarized in a proposal document, a report document and an oral presentation.

The duration of the MSc degree in Applied Immunology will be 6 sessions or 24 months, although some students may be eligible for advanced standing and may complete the MSc in Applied Immunology in 4 sessions.

Students in the Applied Immunology MSc receive a \$5,000 stipend at the beginning of their first summer term.

Unfortunately at this time we are unable to accept international students into the Applied Immunology program.

Fundamental Immunology

MSc

The MSc in the field of Fundamental Immunology provides advanced training in an area of specialization, with a particular emphasis on the acquisition of experience in the strategies and experimental methods of modern, original, scientific research. The MSc training involves research demonstrating a mastery of techniques in a specialized area of research and the design and completion of controlled informative experiments in this area.

In our Department, the typical time to complete the MSc degree is between 2 and 2.5 years. We encourage outstanding MSc students to reclassify directly into the PhD program within 18 months of entering the Department rather than completing their master's degree (see below).

PhD

The PhD degree is an advanced research degree intended to reflect a level of training consistent with the ability of the candidate to function as an independent research scientist. This involves successful completion of course work reflecting a knowledge of modern Immunology, as well as a demonstrated ability to carry out research of publishable quality. To qualify for the degree each candidate must submit a satisfactory thesis based on his/her original research, and successfully defend it in a Final Oral Examination.

Funding

All Fundamental Immunology students are supported at the level prescribed by the Faculty of Medicine. Stipends levels for the 2016-17 academic year are:

MSc, PhD year 1, 2	\$18,000	+ tuition + incidental fees
PhD year 3+	\$20,000	

Applying to Immunology – www.uoft.me/applytoimmunology

Applicants for both the Applied and Fundamental Immunology programs are judged on the basis of their interest in biomedical research as a career, their undergraduate marks from a recognized four-year undergraduate science program or its equivalent, the recommendations from Faculty familiar with their work and any research experience obtained to date.

Minimum Admission Requirements

Applicants must have completed (or be in the final year of completing) an appropriate 4 year bachelor's degree, or its equivalent from a recognized university, with an average of at least a B+ (minimum GPA of 3.3) in their final two years.

Applicants holding a BSc degree with an average of A- in the final two years of undergraduate study may apply for direct entry into the PhD program. Applicants to the PhD holding an MSc degree must have an average of at least B+ in that degree.

Please note that meeting the minimum requirements does not guarantee admission.

